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Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 October 2012, at 3 p.m.

Chair:	Mr. Mac-Donald	(Suriname)
later:	Mr. Sparber (Vice-Chair)	(Liechtenstein)
later:	Ms. Šćepanović (Vice-Chair)	(Montenegro)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The Chair** said that the following candidates had been endorsed to serve as Vice-Chairs of the Committee for its sixty-seventh session: Ms. Alfeine (Comoros), endorsed by the African States; Ms. Šćepanović (Montenegro), endorsed by the Eastern European States; and Mr. Sparber (Liechtenstein), endorsed by the Western European and other States. For the office of Rapporteur, the candidacy of Mr. Tarar (Pakistan) had been endorsed by the Asia-Pacific States.

2. *Ms. Alfeine (Comoros), Ms. Šćepanović (Montenegro) and Mr. Sparber (Liechtenstein) were elected Vice-Chairs and Mr. Tarar (Pakistan) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/67/155, E/2012/30, E/2012/30/Corr.1, E/2012/30/Corr.2, A/67/156, A/67/97, A/67/96, A/67/218, A/C.3/67/L.3, A/C.3/67/L.4, A/C.3/67/L.5, A/C.3/67/L.6 and A/C.3/67/L.7) (*continued*)

Agenda item 104: International drug control (A/67/157) (*continued*)

3. **Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco) said that, because of its continuing concern about the increasing involvement of organized crime in the trafficking of weapons, drugs and persons in the Sahelo-Saharan region, Morocco had put in place a number of anti-drug laws and abuse prevention programmes. In its 2011 report, the International Narcotics Control Board had taken note of the success of Morocco's crop substitution programme in dramatically lowering cannabis production. In 2009, his country had organized the first ministerial meeting of African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, which had produced a security plan for the region.

4. International criminal networks had become a serious threat to international peace and security. His Government had made efforts to harmonize its legislation with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular by amending its Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. Morocco's laws on money-laundering and terrorism financing conformed to international standards. It had established a Financial Information Processing Unit and was taking steps to give constitutional status to its National Integrity Office. It was also acting to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and planned to host a regional meeting of African States parties to that Convention.

5. **Mr. Glomnes Rudi** (Norway) said that international criminals often took advantage of safe havens, corruption, porous borders and weak police control to profit from trafficking in illegal goods. One example was the cocaine flow from Latin America through West Africa and into Europe.

6. His country targeted its scarce police resources at criminal networks and treated drug dependency as a chronic disease. A variety of measures were needed in the fight against organized crime, but he underlined his country's opposition to the death penalty under any conditions whatsoever. He commended the establishment of the Secretary-General's Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, and stressed that any exclusion of civil society from the review processes for the United Nations Convention against Corruption or the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was unacceptable.

7. **Mr. Chir** (Algeria) said that the global drug problem had become more complex owing to the introduction of new kinds of synthetic drugs and links to arms trafficking, corruption, cybercrime, piracy, the financing of terrorism, and illegal trafficking in weapons and human beings. With its long and porous borders, the Sahel region was particularly vulnerable, and he expressed support for United Nations efforts to develop a coordinated anti-crime strategy for that region.

8. The most effective tools for the prevention of transnational organized crime were poverty eradication and economic and social development. He welcomed the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/67/157), and stressed the need to pay attention to the links between international efforts to combat drugs and economic development in the course of implementing the Rio+20 outcome and formulating the development agenda beyond 2015. The time had come to institute an implementation mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to give genuine force to the Salvador Declaration adopted by the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

9. His delegation welcomed security measures taken under the African Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). As a transit country, Algeria took a particular interest in implementation of the three United Nations anti-drug conventions. Its national agency for drug control and drug addiction was in the process of implementing a strategy for the period 2011-2015 based on the three pillars of prevention, treatment and suppression. It had adopted a law waiving prosecution for persons willing to submit to medical detoxification treatments. It had also taken measures to provide care for victims of human trafficking in accordance with international instruments. His delegation supported the Security Council's call on the African Union to strengthen its counter-terrorism framework, and called for criminalization of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups.

10. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that while his Government was committed to tackling poppy cultivation, that was only one component of a larger illegal drug cycle that needed to be addressed through international action at the production, trafficking and consumption phases. In recent years, his Government had made tangible progress in countering the perception that the drug industry was essential to the livelihoods of Afghan farmers. Poppy cultivation has been reduced by almost a third in the previous five years, but efforts had come at a high cost in the lives of law enforcement personnel, and gains were tenuous given the volatile security situation. According to the first report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Implementation Monitoring Team circulated in accordance with Security Council resolution 1988 (2011), narcotics were the primary source of funding for the Taliban and terrorist groups, which meant that an anti-narcotics plan for Afghanistan was also a counter-terrorism plan.

11. His country was committed to regional and international cooperation. It had hosted the "Heart of Asia" Ministerial Conference in June 2012, and during the previous year, it had attended the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem in Lima and the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan in Vienna. As well as being a source of drugs, Afghanistan also suffered from the pernicious effects of drug addiction on its people.

12. *Mr. Sparber (Liechtenstein), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

13. **Mr. Eyeberdiyev** (Turkmenistan), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that they recognized the need to strengthen the legal and political foundation for international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, and supported efforts to step up the implementation of the El Salvador Declaration. They cooperated actively in combating extremist and terrorist threats, organized crime, cybercrime, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons.

14. Combating terrorism, as a complex problem associated with illegal migration, money-laundering and drug and arms trafficking, was one of the priorities for the CIS States in combating crime at the global and regional levels. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided a firm foundation for combating terrorism at the global level. However, its effective implementation was complicated by the delay in agreeing on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

15. The illegal production and transfer of firearms and light weapons constituted a significant threat to international security. Work was continuing in CIS to establish mechanisms for dealing with all aspects of that problem, including organizational, legal and other measures at global, regional and national levels.

16. The international campaign against trafficking in persons was one of the significant areas of joint activity. The international teaching centre in Minsk, which trained experts in combating illegal migration and trafficking in persons, served as a basis for practical measures in that respect by the CIS member States.

17. More broadly, activity of those States was conducted in accordance with intergovernmental programmes for the period 2011-2013 to combat crime, terrorism and other forms of extremism, illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and trafficking in persons, and with the plan of action for the implementation of agreed border policies for 2011-2015. In implementing the CIS crime prevention programme, considerable importance was attached to accession to the basic United Nations agreements on crime prevention and criminal justice. It had been recommended that the CIS States should accelerate the implementation of their domestic procedures for the entry into force of those agreements.

18. The programmes under way provided for the regular conduct of a number of types of special border operations, inter alia, to protect biological resources and prevent the spread of contraband narcotics and their precursors in the Central Asia region. The special data bank of the Bureau for Coordination of Efforts to Combat Organized Crime in the Territory of the CIS member States was functioning effectively. The attention to be paid to issues of combating crime at the forthcoming CIS Council of Heads of State would certainly promote the progressive development of cooperation among those States.

19. **Ms. Zaslanski** (Israel) said that drug addiction was a chronic health disorder, and that drug addicts should be treated with dignity and respect. Her delegation appreciated the health-centred and humanitarian approach which UNODC placed at the heart of drug control policy. The Israel Anti-Drug Authority provided a continuum of prevention and treatment services that were in some cases offered as an alternative to incarceration. Programmes had been developed to change positive attitudes towards drug culture by targeting youths in their own language through the Internet and social networks, and parents were also engaged in the prevention process.

20. The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance was constantly being updated to keep pace with new synthetic drugs. The Israel Anti-Drug Authority had established a National Monitoring Center for Drugs and Alcohol to collect data and promote evidence-based treatment practices. It had also developed, in cooperation with Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, a month-long training workshop for representatives of developing countries, in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had also recently participated. She reiterated her country's determination to honour its commitments as a signatory to the international drug-related treaties and as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

21. **Mr. Velichko** (Belarus) said that transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism remained acute problems, and new types of crime such as cybercrime, illegal trafficking in cultural objects and piracy were becoming increasingly significant. States must continue their comprehensive efforts to discharge the obligations they had entered into under existing international legal instruments and to establish a reliable bilateral, regional, subregional and worldwide system for the provision of legal assistance in criminal matters. A system was needed for the timely provision of technical assistance to States in developing their full potential.

22. The Office on Drugs and Crime made a substantial contribution to combating transnational crime, including its new forms, and providing a necessary technical and advisory system to States in overcoming those problems.

23. Belarus had established a sound legislative basis for combating crime, and national programmes were in effect to combat crime and corruption, counter trafficking in people and illegal migration. A new unified programme for combating crime and corruption over the period 2013-2015 was currently being developed; it would unite measures to combat crime, corruption, trafficking in persons, illegal migration and narcotics trafficking, taking into account the interrelated nature of those crimes. Combating trafficking in persons was among the policy priorities, and a technical assistance project on the subject was under way with the International Organization for Migration.

24. In 2013, the General Assembly was to conduct an assessment of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and his delegation called on the President of the Assembly to convene a high-level meeting to conduct that assessment. The implementation of the Plan had led to an increase in the number of ratifications of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocol. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, was functioning effectively.

25. The sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, to be held shortly in Vienna, would consider the establishment of a mechanism to review progress in the implementation of the Convention. The decision on the establishment of such a mechanism must be drawn up in accordance with the interests of all States Parties to the Convention and adopted by consensus.

26. His delegation looked forward to the presentation in New York of the first thematic report of the Office on Drugs and Crime on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons, and believed that similar presentations should also take place in Vienna and Geneva.

27. **Mr. Maina** (Kenya) said that failures in global efforts to combat drugs suggested that new approaches were needed. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, especially in Africa, was also a matter of concern. The recent capture in September 2012 of the Somali town of Kismayo from the Al-Shabaab terrorist group by Kenyan and African Union troops was an important step towards stability, but the international community needed to do more to stem the flow of deadly weapons to terrorists. Piracy off the coast of East Africa and in the Gulf region was another problem that ultimately could only be resolved by dealing with the conflict in Somalia. Since the commencement of Kenyan military operations in 2011, there had been no piracy incidents off the Kenyan and Somali coasts, but the international community also needed to do its part. His Government had recently passed comprehensive legislation against human trafficking, and was also instituting the widest ranging judicial reforms since its independence.

28. **Mr. Ahmadu** (Nigeria) said that in recent years his Government had strengthened its anti-drug machinery with a view to fulfilling its obligations under various international instruments. Its National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had recently uncovered two clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in Lagos, and, together with the Nigeria Customs Service, had seized large quantities of drugs and prosecuted numerous cases before the courts. Nigeria's anti-drug agencies had won praise from international partners. He called for enhanced global collaboration to counter increasing boldness, sophistication and innovation on the part of drug traffickers. During the previous two years, his country had entered into bilateral agreements with South Africa, Norway, France, Switzerland and others, and had enacted legislation to prevent criminals from enjoying the proceeds of their ill-gotten wealth.

29. **Mr. Kasap** (Ukraine) said that his Government placed a high priority on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, viewing them as security threats on a par with terrorism. It had recently adopted a new Code of Criminal Procedure that incorporated the most progressive, democratic and up-to-date provisions and was addressing the urgent threat of cybercrime.

30. Ukraine was committed to implementation of the Salvador Declaration adopted by the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and looked forward to the thirteenth Congress to be held in Qatar in 2015. As a country of origin, transit and destination simultaneously, it supported enhanced multilateral cooperation under the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, commended the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and welcomed the Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

31. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009 had helped to increase the effectiveness of international anti-drug cooperation. His country attached great importance to an integrated approach to combating illicit drugs that maintained due respect for human rights and human dignity. He drew attention to the resolution adopted at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2012 that stressed treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons as an alternative to incarceration. In May 2012, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, his country had hosted an International High-Level Conference on a Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence and related HIV/AIDS, which had focused on drafting a new anti-drug strategy for Ukraine through 2020.

32. **Mr. Khammoungkhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his Government was committed to fighting organized crime by strengthening national legal frameworks and through international information exchange, mutual legal assistance and extradition.

33. Drug trafficking impeded development and its causes should be addressed more systematically and sustainably. His Government had reduced opium production by 94 per cent between 1998 and 2006, but cultivation had increased in recent years as the international community had turned its attention elsewhere. Poverty, opium's high value and the inaccessibility of the poppy-growing areas had led to the increase. International cooperation, poverty eradication and sustainable development were needed to eliminate cultivation.

34. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was a country of origin, transit and destination for human

trafficking. His Government had adopted a National Strategy and Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, implemented through a national supervisory committee, had passed anti-trafficking laws and had amended the penal code to impose stiffer punishments. It participated in the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (the COMMIT Process) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plan of action against human trafficking.

35. **Mr.** Raza Bashir **Tarar** (Pakistan) said that international organized crime threatened human security and impeded development. Increased demand for drugs in the developed world led to increased supply from the developing world. The international community should therefore focus on reducing demand. The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should be strengthened and UNODC should provide technical assistance for capacity-building. The United Nations drug control conventions, to which Pakistan was a party, provided the framework for the international cooperation needed to address the problem.

36. Although its illicit opium crop had been greatly reduced, Pakistan continued to suffer as a transit country. In partnership with UNODC, his Government had launched the 2010-2014 Country Programme, which took all facets of the problem into account.

37. A concerted regional approach was needed. Pakistan was part of the UNODC Rainbow Strategy and the Triangular Initiative, but the scale of the problem called for comprehensive assistance including technical equipment. His Government also participated in the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the Paris Pact Initiative.

38. The United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons embodied the international community's resolve to address the issue. His Government had passed the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance in 2002 and set up the Anti-Trafficking Unit within the Federal Investigation Agency.

39. States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption should exchange information related to the proceeds of crime and overcome obstacles caused by bank secrecy. His Government had signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and had set up a Financial Monitoring Unit under the 2010 Act to provide for prevention of money-laundering.

40. The Access to Justice Programme, launched in 2002 with the help of the Asian Development Bank, had helped reduce the backlog of court cases. To secure Pakistan's borders, his Government had, with international help, introduced a system which provided the authorities with information to identify travellers.

41. Since international crime would best be tackled through a comprehensive approach and long-term financial commitment, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for stable funding for the relevant United Nations mechanisms.

42. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica) said that drug trafficking and organized crime harmed public health and social networks, distorted economic indicators, limited sustainable development, caused corruption, weakened the rule of law, fostered crime and could even destroy institutions.

43. United Nations bodies should act to preserve international peace, security and stability. Balanced, multisectoral approaches were needed, combining the national, regional and global dimensions, and taking account of countries' shared but differentiated responsibilities and their place in the value chain comprising producers, traffickers, distributors and consumers of drugs, arms dealers and money-launderers. Consuming countries should make more effort to destroy the economic mechanism maintaining the drug trade, discourage consumption and treat addicts. Previous approaches had tended to focus on the imprisonment of individual users rather than targeting distributors, money-launderers or arms traders.

44. Central America was severely affected by drug trafficking because of its geographical location. The costs of fighting the drug trade were more than the region could afford and reduced the resources available for development. He therefore urged greater cooperation with the Central American Security Strategy.

45. His Government's comprehensive strategy included surveillance for drug, money and weapon seizures, the dismantling of criminal organizations, the strengthening of public institutions, better police training, crime prevention, social development, more opportunities for young people, and better security and

rehabilitation for addicts. It had already produced results: the murder rate had dropped significantly between 2010 and 2012 and seizures of illicit drugs had increased.

46. **Mr. al-Shwani** (Qatar) said that his country had undertaken a review of its legislation with a view to harmonizing it with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care provided shelter for victims of human trafficking, while the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking was implementing a strategy for combating all forms of that phenomenon. In January 2012, Qatar had hosted the second Doha Forum for Combating Human Trafficking, which had launched the Arab Initiative for Building National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking. Qatar would also be hosting the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015.

47. Qatar's national anti-drug strategy for the period 2010-2015 had also met with success in reducing both supply of and demand for illegal drugs. A national campaign was raising awareness of the dangers of drugs through lectures and symposiums in schools, athletic clubs, youth associations, colleges and military academies. It had become party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. He called for stepped up international cooperation to combat the scourge of illegal drugs and the organized crime that came with them, which were a major obstacle to realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

48. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that drug abuse remained a critical concern for all societies and could threaten the viability of a nation such as Singapore, whose economy relied on a strong work ethic. His Government could not afford to let its citizens become drug addicts and therefore operated a zero-tolerance policy, under which talks on the harmful effects of drugs were given at schools, and operations were conducted to detect abusers, shut down drug dens and stop traffickers. The number of arrested abusers had fallen significantly between 1994 and 2011.

49. His Government was committed to helping abusers return to their family and workplace. They underwent intervention programmes at rehabilitation centres, and some were eligible for further care to aid reintegration. Community initiatives matched abusers with volunteers who provided them with peer support and role modelling.

50. Although it was unclear how the decriminalization of drugs or the medicalization of control reduced consumption, his delegation supported United Nations efforts and international programmes in the area. His Government did not tolerate the distribution or sale of drugs, but the increasing numbers of cheaper alternatives meant that it needed to keep abreast of the latest developments in drug control and review its practices regularly.

51. **Ms. Al-Saleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was party to most of the international instruments on transnational organized crime, illegal drugs and human trafficking, and had acted to harmonize its national legislation with those instruments. It worked with INTERPOL, and took part in various regional and international actions to combat human trafficking, illegal migration, recruitment of illegal workers and trafficking in human body parts. Even though human trafficking was not a problem in Syria, the Government had enacted a law against human trafficking.

52. There had recently been an increase in illegal trafficking of mercenaries by hegemonic States pursuing expansionist aims in developing countries. Her country had been infiltrated by elements of Al-Qaida that were inciting violence and murder with the full support of certain international and regional parties. While such groups tried to disguise their identities by calling themselves security companies or free armies, the truth was they were operating on behalf of certain States that wanted to keep their own hands free of blood. She had every confidence in the ability of the United Nations to stop trafficking in persons and the smuggling of mercenaries if Member States would display the necessary political will.

53. Her country valued the technical support provided by the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The true sources of trafficking in drugs and human beings needed to be uncovered, and those crimes needed to be prevented by ending regional

conflicts and supporting economic development in poor countries.

54. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government had proved its determination to combat drug abuse by cutting the transit routes from Afghanistan, at great human and financial cost. It had mobilized 30,000 troops along its eastern borders, and had reinforced its checkpoints to prevent the entry of caravans into the country and destroy any which managed to cross. In July 2011, the UNODC Executive Director had visited the many miles of embankments, canals, concrete walls, barriers and barbed wire which had been put in place.

55. His Government provided HIV prevention, treatment and care to Afghan refugee drug users and returnees. The programmes had been established and strengthened by UNODC.

56. Iranian forces had infiltrated gangs and engaged in undercover operations, surveillance, ambushes, tracking and armed clashes with convoys. The Islamic Republic of Iran had thus confiscated more narcotics than any other country in 2009.

57. His Government had cooperated with its neighbours and with countries along the Balkan trafficking route. The Anti-narcotics Police and the Drug Control Headquarters exchanged information with other countries in the region. His Government had helped set up the Economic Cooperation Organization Drug Control Coordination Unit and had hosted the first meeting of the chiefs of anti-narcotics police of Economic Cooperation Organization members in August 2010. It had signed international anti-narcotic cooperation documents and participated in meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Paris Pact partners.

58. Many opiates produced in Afghanistan and confiscated in the Islamic Republic of Iran had been destined for Europe. Countries thus had a shared responsibility in tackling the problem, and financial and technical support to the Islamic Republic of Iran was essential.

59. **Mr. Sin** (Myanmar) said that the world drug situation looked bleak, as illicit opium production was increasing. More international cooperation and better assistance was needed to combat the problem in south-east Asia. A holistic approach to the causes was needed, with more emphasis on the exchange of experiences between Governments. Enforcement should also be given a higher priority.

60. His Government was implementing the last phase of the 15-year Narcotic Elimination Plan, to be concluded in 2014, which covered supply reduction, law enforcement, community participation and international cooperation. The Government's two strategies were the eradication of drugs as a national task and the elimination of cultivation through the provision of alternative livelihoods to people in poppy-growing areas.

61. Cultivation was increasing, however, even though in 2011-2012 his Government had destroyed an area of poppies three times greater than the previous year.

62. Law enforcement had also been intensified, with legal action taken against 3,471 offenders and large quantities of narcotics confiscated.

63. His Government was working with other ASEAN members to make the region free from drugs by 2015. It was committed to working with the international community and looked forward to more financial and technical assistance to address the problem.

64. **Ms. Hady** (Yemen) said that poverty and certain adverse impacts of globalization were exacerbating transnational organized crime. Her country had ratified the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption, in implementation of which it had enacted a number of laws and created a number of national agencies.

65. Yemen had also acceded to the 1961, 1971 and 1988 United Nations conventions against illegal drugs, and had signed a number of bilateral agreements aimed at bringing drug smugglers to justice. It had enacted an anti-drug law in 1993 and created an anti-drug agency within its Ministry of the Interior that interdicted illegal drug trafficking at sea and land ports of entry. It had also organized several campaigns to raise awareness of the adverse impacts of drugs on the individual and society. Yemen also had enacted laws, established machinery and engaged in regional cooperation against trafficking in human beings, and stressed the importance of treating victims and raising awareness.

66. *Ms. Šćepanović (Montenegro), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

67. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) said that in the 17 years since Tajikistan had acceded to the 1961, 1971 and 1988 narcotics control conventions, it had signed more than 30 international agreements on combating narcotics.

68. It had been estimated that more was spent on drugs than on food, housing, clothing, education or health care. Moreover, the spread of drugs was accompanied by increases in organized crime, HIV/AIDS and other diseases and the financing of terrorism, thus destroying the human potential of society. Amphetamines were now used by more people than opiates and cocaine combined. The problem was that measures to combat drugs were taken primarily at the national or, at best, regional level, while the illegal trafficking itself was global in nature.

69. Tajikistan, located between the main producer of opium and heroin and the user countries, acted as a barrier to the smuggling of drugs. In 12 years, the authorities had seized more than 73 tons of narcotic substances, amounting to 177 million doses of drugs which had not reached users, saving more than 14 million people from drug dependency and preventing more than $1.5 billion from reaching organized crime associations and terrorist groups.

70. The drug onslaught could be combated successfully only by means of increased collective efforts to build effective regional cooperation as a solid foundation for a global partnership to counter the drug threat. Within the Central Asian region, such cooperation depended to a large extent on successfully strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan. To that end, it must be provided with economic, technical and humanitarian assistance, including alternative development of the agriculture sector, electrification, measures to create permanent jobs, and improved education so as to resolve social problems. In 2012, Tajikistan had set itself the objective of developing a new drug control strategy for the period 2013-2020. The Government was grateful to the international community, particularly the Office on Drugs and Crime, for the assistance it had received in combating illegal drug trafficking and strengthening international cooperation.

71. **Mr. Jung** Jin Ho (Republic of Korea) said that although the global community had made the world safer from drugs and crime, the problems took on different forms every day and more coordinated approaches were therefore needed.

72. Cyberspace was an area of rapid global change. Criminal groups were active in it because it provided new tools for money-laundering and fraud. New threats had also appeared, including cybercrime, personal information leaks, malicious content and cyberbullying. His Government was providing technical assistance to developing countries fighting cybercrime. In 2010, the Korean Institute of Criminology had launched the Virtual Forum against Cybercrime in partnership with UNODC, offering intensive training on digital forensics, cybercrime investigation and data protection. He welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/97), which proposed a workshop on cybercrime at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015. In October 2013 his Government would host the Conference on Cyberspace in Seoul, a high-level forum with the participation of Governments, industry, civil society and the Internet technical community. He was confident that it would explore ways to develop an open and secure cyberspace.

73. Information sharing among law enforcement agencies and international organizations, and among producing, transit and consuming countries, was essential to effective cooperation against drug trafficking. UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board were crucial in the distribution of data and analysis. His Government had continued its support for such activities by contributing to the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends Programme. It had also hosted the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific since January 2012 and had launched the Asia-Pacific Information Coordination Centre for Combating Drug Crimes in September 2012.

74. **Ms. Al-Saleh** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement of the representative of Liechtenstein had been an uncalled-for departure from the agenda item and a reflection of his incomplete knowledge of the situation in Syria. Much of what was happening in her country fell under the category of transnational crime and international terrorism. Four times in the past two days, her capital had been targeted by suicide bombings for which responsibility had been claimed by terrorist

groups known to be affiliated with Al-Qaida. All the perpetrators had been non-Syrian.

75. The fact that mercenaries and terrorists were crossing the border into Syria had been confirmed by several Western States. Two persons had been arrested at Heathrow Airport in the United Kingdom on suspicion of travelling to Syri.. for the purpose of committing armed terrorist acts. The Prime Minister of Australia had been constrained explicitly to warn citizens of her country not to travel to Syria to take part in the fighting. The representative of Liechtenstein would have done better to warn against the dangers of mercenaries and jihadists being smuggled into Syria and to call on the States supporting those mercenaries to stop providing them with money, arms and communications equipment.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.